

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP April 9, 1972

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 21
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us grace to believe in his victory and faith and to make it our own. Help us in the days of our flesh to be more ready to minister like Christ than to be ministered to; give us a ready heart to bear the heavy burdens of others; keep our tempers cool and our spirits calm; make us brave to fight for right and to stand firm against those who would oppress the weak; cause us in all our ways to say with him, "Not my will, but thine be done." Give us grace to know him as our living Lord and strength to follow in his footsteps; in his name we pray. Amen.

*The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Matthew 20:29-34
 Luke 24:13-31

*The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 242
 The Sermon----"Do You See?"
 The Sermon Prayer

*The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heidelberg Class will meet Tues. evening
 April 11th at 7:30 PM.

Win-a-Chun Class will meet Tues. April 11th
 at 7:30 PM. in the home of Rita Stoner.
 Claire Steele will be the worship leader.

Missionary Circle Meeting is Tues. April
 11th at 7:30 PM at the home of Mabel Gelbach.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations are being solicited for the family of Miles Page. Their home burned completely this past week and they were unable to save anything. A receptacle has been placed on the table in the back of the church if you wish to contribute. A relief fund has been started by the New Bloomfield Fire Company. This family consists of four children, 3 boys 13, 7, and 4. One girl age 9. The only thing they have now is what they are wearing.

RELIEF FUND AT CHINA-WEALTH BANK. MAY GIVE THERE.

QUESTIONNAIRES? IN BACK OF CHURCH

RICHARD FIN IN HARRISBURG H. J.

RONALD LEYDEL H. J.

"Do You Hear?"

MATT.

Text: Luke 24:30; 33 "and, let us have our sight back."

Text 24:31 "and their eyes were opened and they recognized him."

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Have you ever been associated with a person who is blind? Perhaps you have been able to do your share. Who was blind if you have not had the opportunity to associate with a blind individual? I have been associated with several blind people and have had the occasion to observe others who were blind. It is an amazing thing to observe ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ how blind people are able to overcome their handicap. They, for the most part have determined and found their other senses to make up for the lack of sight.

To be able to live in a world of darkness, while all around you may be heard and felt the sounds of normal life, must be frustrating indeed. But to most of these people, they accept the fact of permanent darkness with a sense of ease. To be sure, not all blind people react this way. But for the most part they are able to overcome a goodly portion of their problem through attuning themselves to their environment.

TODAY WE ARE CONCERNED WITH SEVERAL BLIND PEOPLE. WE READ OF IN OUR SCRIPTURE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ *THE* ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ *FACE OF*

Jesus probably had spread like wildfire, throughout all of Palestine. People were probably all talking about this preacher, who could heal the sick, raise the dead and forgive people their sins. By word of mouth his fame must have spread and so in every town and village through which he passed, the people were so hard to greet him. Some came merely out of curiosity or some came because they wanted something or needed something. And so in part of our scriptures we read of two men sitting by the road waiting for Jesus to pass by. Perhaps they had heard where he was the day before, ~~XXXX~~ or in which direction he was traveling and as they were able to locate the right place at the right time. In

agreed that they were willing to go along. So that they
went the whole journey together and the crowd around them increased
they were very much surprised who it was that was coming. They probably, when
they first started to go, did not know. After a while, the blind men did not
lose the opportunity to touch and feel the man, and they did not want
to be separated from him and go out to the desert, far from help. So they
stayed, and when they heard the voice of Jesus, they said to all that
the people were following, they shouted, "Lord, have pity on us, Son of
David." and those around them told them to shut up. Don't disturb
this man he is too important for your little quarrels. But what was
the answer? They shut up for a while. But they could not keep still and
they started to shout loudly, "Lord, have pity on us, Son of David." and
Jesus stopped, and called to them, "That is my work to do" for
you. They said, "Lord, let us touch him and be healed." and Jesus went
and touched them in their eyes and they were healed. They
were healed so that they had difficulty in getting around, and he realized
the problem they were in, and he called them and he said for them and
healed their eyes and he led them. And we are told that immediately
their sight returned and they followed him. They did not go off home-
wards and forget the incident. They followed him.

This incident involves physical blindness. But consider
the other parties of scripture. There is a story of the followers
walking along on the road to Emmaus. As they walk along they are talk-
ing of the events of the past few days. Along comes a stranger and
they engage him in the conversation. But strangely enough, when they
find he does not know all of the events of the past few days, they do
not even bother to ask him why he does not know, where he came from and
so on as most people would do. He would say, where have you been
the last couple of days? Where did you come from? Are you just a stran-
ger passing through or what? But the two followers of Jesus did not do

John Wesley looked into, "There's little light, and the
 prevailing glow, lead them on." Jesus looks out times of seeing
 with a seeing eye and seeing with a hearing eye. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XX~~
~~XX~~
 Another with the English Unitarian
 wrote, "There's none so blind as they that won't see." This is
 what my father made to be on many different occasions.

We can readily recognize those who are physically blind,
 because there are symptoms that we can look for. We can tell that
 some of them will wear eyeglasses all times of the day and night;
 some of them will have a white cane; some of them will have to
 get around; ~~xxxx~~ others will have a wife or husband who can see, and
 they will constantly help it to their eye. Each of these things or
 these things in combination, will give an clue to the fact that
 this is a physically blind person.

But what of the spiritually blind? Can we look to people
 and see clues or tip offs in their lives as to their blindness that
 tell of their blindness? The answer is yes and no. Spiritual blind-
 ness is an insidious disease that is ~~sarxine~~ like some sort of
 creeping cancer. It starts out in a small fashion and before long
 it is beyond check or control. It starts out as a feud between two
 friends and ends up as a non-speaking match for years ~~for years~~ later.
 It starts out as an incident that one of our friends relates in their
 dealings with a member of another race and ends up in our hating all
 blacks or people of yellow skin or another group.

It starts out as a dislike of something that has happened
 in a family and ends up as a full scale family hatred. There are the
 signs of spiritual blindness. There are the things that lie beneath
 the surface in the lives of many Christians. And there are the things
 that lead us from really belonging to the kingdom of God, for we ~~see~~

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.